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HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNIDO AND THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Report by the Director-General

1. The present report updates information provided in documents IDB.6/17, IDB.8/34, GC.4/46 and IDB.10/23.

2. As reported to the Board in document IDB.10/23, there had been indications that the Austrian interministerial consultations would be brought to a conclusion in the near future and that UNIDO could expect thereafter to receive comprehensive written comments on the proposed draft definitive headquarters agreement. There was general agreement among the legal advisers of the Foreign Ministry of Austria and of UNIDO that it had become urgent to bring the negotiations to a conclusion as soon as possible.

3. On 14 October 1992, the Legal Adviser of the Foreign Ministry informed UNIDO that the competent Austrian authorities had carefully examined the draft agreement proposed by the Director-General and that, while most of the draft provisions would be acceptable to the Austrian side, certain articles had led to comments which were enclosed for consideration by UNIDO. On 17 December 1992 the Legal Adviser of UNIDO transmitted the Secretariat's reply to the comments received from the competent Austrian authorities and on 22 March 1993 he suggested that the negotiations be intensified. The two sides thereafter agreed to commence actual negotiations on the issues covered by the supplementary agreement on social security. Several rounds of negotiations were held and substantial progress was achieved on most of the issues, while other issues were left pending the outcome of consultations between the Austrian Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

4. At the time of preparing the present report, the Secretariat expects that further rounds of negotiation on the main part of the draft headquarters agreement will be scheduled in the near future and that the negotiations can be concluded in the course of 1994.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE CONFERENCE

5. The General Conference may wish to take note of the present report. Taking into account articles 8.4, 11.3 and 20 of the Constitution of UNIDO, the Conference may also wish to consider the desirability of delegating authority to the Industrial Development Board to approve a comprehensive, definitive headquarters agreement for UNIDO.

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